

In the Drawings

“Replacement Sheet” is attached which includes a clean version of amended Figure 10.
The attached sheet replaces the original sheet including Figure 10.

“Annotated Sheet Showing Changes” is also attached which includes a marked-up
version of Figure 10.

Figure 10 is amended to be designated as --Prior Art--.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-31 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 7 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 8, 17 and 24 have been amended. As a result, claims 1-31 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 17 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-22 and 26-31 as being unpatentable over Sinkoff in view of Jones et al. The Examiner has, however, objected to claims 7-9 and 23-25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter previously of claim 7, now canceled. In addition, claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter previously of claim 23, now canceled. Thus, claims 1 and 17 are allowable. Because claims 2-6 and 8-16 depend from and further limit claim 1, such claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Similarly, because claims 18-22 and 24-31 depend from and further limit claim 17, such claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to FIG. 10 of the drawings as not bearing the designation --Prior Art--. The words --Prior Art-- have been added to FIG. 10.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee

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occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Junichi Ohsako et al., Applicants

By:

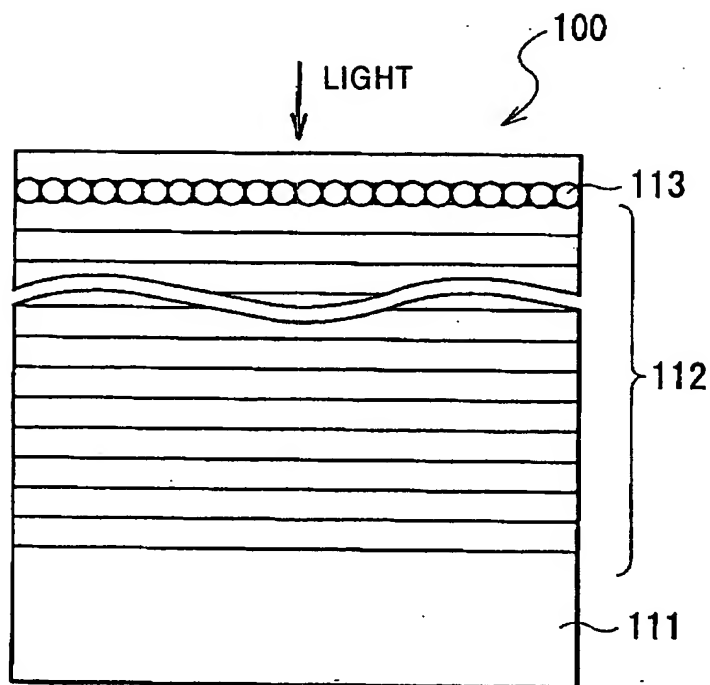

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FIG. 10



PRIOR ART